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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,876	06/15/2001	Yoshiaki Hirano	21581/0268	6636

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EXAMINER

WILSON, DONALD R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1713

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/880,876

Applicant(s)

HIRANO ET AL.

Examiner

D. R. Wilson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120




- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Restriction Requirement

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claim 1, drawn to a first cross-linked polymer, classified in class 526, subclass 263.
 - II. Claim 2, drawn to a second cross-linked polymer, classified in class 525, subclass 326.7.
 - III. Claim 3, drawn to a cross-linking agent, classified in class 546, subclass 186.
 -  IV. Claim 4; drawn to a method of producing the first cross-linked polymer, classified in class 526, subclass 217+.
 - V. Claim 5, drawn to a method of making the second cross-linked polymer, classified in class 525, subclass 356+.
 -  VI. Claim 8, drawn to a method of using the first cross-linked polymer in an ion-exchange reaction, classified in class 525, subclass 360+.
 -  VII. Claim 9, drawn to a method of producing an acrylate ester using a first cross-linked polymer, classified in class 560, subclass 128.
 - VIII. Claim 10-12 and 15, drawn to a method of producing glycols, classified in class 568, subclass 867.
 - IX. Claim 13, drawn to a method of using the second cross-linked polymer in an ion-exchange reaction, classified in class 525, subclass 360+.
 - X. Claim 14, drawn to a method of producing an acrylate ester using a second cross-linked polymer, classified in class 560, subclass 128.
2. The inventions of Claims 6-7 could not be classified as they are process claims without any affirmative process steps.
3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:
4. Inventions of Group III and I are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be

useful as a herbicide and the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

5. Inventions of Group I and II are related respectively to the inventions of Groups IV and V as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product of Group I inventions as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as forming the piperidinium cross-links by reaction of a diallylamine polymer with a suitable polyhalo compound, and the product of the Group II inventions as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as forming the cross-links by reaction of a diallylmethylamine polymer with a suitable dihalo compound.

6. The inventions of the other groups are distinct from one another because they are either distinctly different compositions, processes with different steps or utilizing different compounds, or processes either not making or using the claimed compositions.

7. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and/or have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Election of Species Requirement

8. This application contains claims directed to the following genera of patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- a. first cross-linked polymers of formula (1) (Groups I, VI, VII, VIII),
- b. second cross-linked polymers of formula (2) (Groups II, V, VIII, IX, X),

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- c. cross-linking agent of formula (3) (Groups III and IV)
- d. monomers of general formula (4) (Group IV)
- e. quaternizing agent (Group V),
- f. ion-exchange reactions (including the specie of none) (Groups VI, IX),
- g. reactions for activating an active hydrogen atom (including the specie of none) (Groups VI, IX), and
- h. oxirane compounds (Groups VII, VIII, X).

9. As appropriate to the elected group of inventions applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a **single ultimate** disclosed specie for each of the above genera for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. If the inventions of Group VIII are elected, then only one specie of genera (a) or (b) is to be elected. Where specific species are not identified in the claims applicant should elect a specific specie from the specification. An alternative method of election is to identify an Example which collectively exemplifies the elected species. Currently, Claims 1-5, 8-9, 11 and 13-14 appear to be generic in their respective groups to the above species.

10. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

11. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

12. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Conclusion to Restriction/Election Requirement

13. This restriction/election of species is being mailed because of its complexity and the presence of claims which cannot be classified or examined. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to

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be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

14. Applicant is reminded that if claims directed to the product are elected, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined. See M.P.E.P. § 821.04.

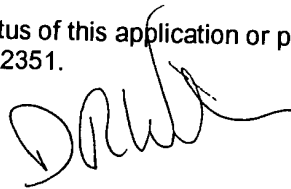
15. Applicant is also reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Future Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. R. Wilson whose telephone number is 703-308-2398.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on 703-308-2450. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-5408 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications. The unofficial direct fax phone number to the Examiner's desk is 703-872-9029.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-2351.



D. R. Wilson
Primary Examiner
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